

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00091 261812Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/052 W

----- 122577

R 261730Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 616

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: THREAT OF WIDENING LABOR UNREST IN QUEBEC

REF: QUEBEC 90 AND PREVIOUS

1. QUEBEC OBSERVERS ARE ANTICIPATING A WEEK OF INTENSE SOCIAL AND LABOR UNREST WHICH MAY CULMINATE FRIDAY, APRIL 30, EVE OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY, IN MASSIVE SHOW OF PROTEST INVOLVING NOT ONLY PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS, BUT THOSE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL. IN AN APRIL 24 STRATEGY SESSION OF DELEGATES FROM QUEBEC'S THREE MAJOR UNION CENTRALS (QFL, CNTU, AND CEQL, A MAJOR EFFORT WAS MADE TO UNITE QUEBEC'S 350,000 PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS WITH THE 175,000 PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS - ALREADY ENGAGED IN A CONTRACT STRUGGLE WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVT - IN A TOTAL BATTLE AGAINST " REPRESSIVE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LAWS ". CITING RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION BY BOTH THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVTs, UNION LEADERS ACCUSED OTTAWA AND QUEBEC OF ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY THE UNION MOVEMENT AND RETALIATED BY DECLARING APRIL 30 AND MAY 1 " DAYS OF PROTEST " AND PROMISING TO LAUNCH JOINT ONE-DAY STRIKE ACTION EARLY IN MAY.

2. THE QFL, REPRESENTING SOME 280,000 MOSTLY PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS, WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO CALL A STRIKE OF ALL ITS MEMBERS BEFORE MAY 17, FOLLOWING A VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS. THE CNTU, WITH ITS 180,000 MEMBERS, EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO CALL A

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00091 261812Z

STRIKE ONLY AFTER MAY 5. AN IMPORTANT PART OF THESE TWO

CENTRALS ARE SOME 150,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, THE MAJORITY BELONGING TO THE QFL. THEY WILL BE WITHOUT CONTRACT APRIL 30 AND WILL PROBABLY TRY TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH THE COMMON FRONT IN ORDER TO PRESS CONTRACT DEMANDS.

3. COMMON FRONT ALREADY PLANNING ANOTHER 24-HR WALKOUT EARLY THIS WEEK, POSSIBLY APRIL 28 TO CORRESPOND WITH START OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST UNIONS CHARGED WITH DISOBEYING PROVISIONS OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND BACK-TO-WORK LAWS. LEADERS REPORTEDLY MAY EVEN CHOOSE TO EXPAND ACTION TO TWO OR THREE-DAY WALKOUT.

4. PRIME MINISTER BOURASSA, SPEAKING APRIL 25 AT CLOSING OF PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY CONGRESS, AGAIN LASHED OUT AT COMMON FRONT, REPEATING APRIL 23 PLEDGE THAT GOQ WILL NOT BE BLACKMAILED OR DETERRED BY THREATS OF UNLIMITED GENERAL STRIKE. HE ALSO PROMISED TO " REEVALUATE " RIGHT TO STRIKE OF HOSPITAL WORKERS, MEANING GOQ MAY BE PLANNING OTHER ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION - THIS TIME AFFECTING HOSPITAL WORKERS AS WELL.

MCNAMARA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, NEGOTIATIONS, CONTRACTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976QUEBEC00091  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760159-0087  
**From:** QUEBEC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760422/aaaaasin.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 QUEBEC 90  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by ellisob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THREAT OF WIDENING LABOR UNREST IN QUEBEC  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, CA  
**To:** STATE  
OTTAWA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006